

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig (1-13). The sheet, which includes Figs. (1-13), replaces sheet the original including Figs. (1-13).

Enclosure(s): Replacement Sheets (12 pages)

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-5 are rejected.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over del Prado Pavon et al. (US 2003/0172179 A1) in view of Aiello et al. (US 7,088,795).

The Specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The Drawings are objected to by the Examiner.

The Applicants traverse the rejections and request reconsideration.

Specification

The Applicants respectfully include a revised Abstract to overcome the objections thereto.

Drawings

The Applicants respectfully submit revised formal drawings to overcome the pending objections.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The claims have amended to overcome their rejection under section 112.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Rejection of Claims 1-5 as being unpatentable over del Prado Pavon et al. (US 2003/0172179 A1) in view of Aiello et al. (US 7,088,795)

Claim 1 as well as claim 2-5 dependent thereon are not obvious from the combined teachings of Pavon and Aiello. Pavon merely discloses techniques related to a clock synchronization, and Aiello merely teaches that each of the slaves stores its state information. Pavon and Aiello, either alone or in combination, do not suggest the present invention.

Apart from a general teaching on synchronization between a master and a slave, the Applicants respectfully submit that Prado Pavon does not suggest anything related to the present invention. For example, Prado Pavon suggest that a synchronization frame is transmitted from the master node (see paragraph [0032] of Prado Pavon). The synchronization frame includes the cycle time and the associated sequence number. The slave node receives the synchronization frame and also detects a last symbol on air symbol position. It then saves the local cycle time value as well as the sequence number (see paragraphs [0038]-[0039] of Prado Pavon). The time delay associated with the cycle time is then adjusted and a difference between the cycle time value stored in the master node and the slave node is computed. Finally, based on this difference the local time base of the slave node is adjusted (see paragraph [0046] of Prado Pavon)

In other words, while the disclosure of Prado Pavon relates to synchronizing and adjusting a master clock and the associated slave clocks, the specific techniques are nothing more than as in the admitted prior art in the present Specification. Specifically Prado Pavon does not disclose (or remotely suggest) a communication period which is set to an integral multiple of a natural period of IEEE1394 communications with the natural period being considered as a base cycle. As noted in Figs. 3 and 4 of the present Specification and the accompanying description,

the communication period being integral multiples of the natural period is a key to implementing the techniques of the present invention.

In other words, without this feature, the rest of the steps of the present invention cannot be implemented. The Examiner refers to paragraph [0017] of Prado Pavan and specifically the cycle time value $a(n)$. However, he has not established why the mere mention of a cycle time $a(n)$ is sufficient to show that the communication period is an integral multiple of the natural period of IEEE 1394 as in the present invention.

In addition, Prado Pavan does not suggest a base cycle counter as required by claim 1. More importantly, it does not suggest a transmission management table in which destination slaves for receiving instruction data are previously allocated to each of the base counter values. In other words, Prado Pavan's technique is not based on each slave receiving instruction data at a cycle time which is at a specific time after the synchronization point.

The Examiner admits that Prado Pavan does not suggest such a transmission management table. However, according to the Examiner, Aiello overcomes this deficiency. The Examiner refers to col. 10, lines 42-48 of Aiello in support of his position that a transmission management table is suggested. However, in these passages Aiello merely discloses that each slave maintains and tracks its state by storing its state information in a memory. Likewise, the master also tracks the state of each slave. Such a tracking of the state of slave by the slave and the master in memory is completely different from the transmission management table as in the present invention where destination slaves for receiving instruction data are previously allocated to each of the base counter values.

A skilled artisan would not have been able to practice the present invention from the combined teachings of Prado Pavan and Aiello.

Claims 2-5 are dependent on claim 1, and therefore, are allowable at least for the same reasons.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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